

John W. Williams House
33 South Baptist Street
Newport
Newport County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-327

HABS
RI,
3-NEWP,
51-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-327

JOHN W. WILLIAMS HOUSE

Location: 33 South Baptist Street
Newport, Rhode Island

Present Owner: Emmanuel Church

Present Use: Residential

Significance: The John W. Williams House is a typical example of the
Newport small houses during the Greek Revival period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1845.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

Chain of Title: John W. Williams House
33 South Baptist Street
Plat 32, Lot 84
Tax Assessor's Office
Newport, Rhode Island

1845 Deed of May 23, 1845, recorded in LEB. 25, p.293-4.

From: Clark Burdick
To: John W. Williams
For: \$260

"One certain lot of land, being in the south part of the aforementioned town of Newport... Beginning at the NW corner of said lot, and running Easterly 112' bounded North by a new street leading from Thames, thence Southerly 40', thence Westerly 29', thence Southerly 10', bounded on land of Robert Taylor, thence Westerly to a point at right angles w/ the first named starting point, thence Northerly 50' to the 1st named place of starting: ... it being part of a lot conveyed to this grantor by Edward Clarke, and bounded South on said Clarke and West on the grantee."

1849 Deed of April 9, 1849, recorded in LEB. 32, p.201-202.

From: Robert Taylor (Sailmaker)
To: John W. Williams
For: \$110

"A certain lot of landNortherly on a street leading to the Baptist Meeting House, c/; Westerly on land belonging to said John W. Williams, 40'; Northerly on land of said John W. Williams 28' 8"; Westerly on land of said John Williams 10', and on land of Clark Burdick, 44' more or less, Southerly on land of Hugh T. Brightman 31' 8", Easterly on land belonging to Brightman 31' 8", Easterly on land belonging to Robert Taylor 92' more or less... It being part of the lot of land and purchased by the Nathan B. Hammett Esq.."

From: John W. Williams
To: George W. Tracy, executor
For: Devisee

Died: January 14, 1894
Petition: February 19, 1894

1898 Deed of May 9, 1898, recorded in LEB 73, p.490-497.

From: George W. Tracy devisee of John W. Williams
To: Clark H. Burdick and Thomas Power
(CH. Burdick & Co.)
For: \$100

Land bought at price of \$100 at public auction
conducted by Hugh W. Gifford.

1902 Deed of January 7, 1902, recorded in LEB. 76, p.83.

From: Clark H. Burdick
To: Thomas Power
For: \$10.00 +

" ... estate late of the late John Williams to George W. Tracy."

From: Thomas Power
To: Martha Power
For: Devise

Died: July 12, 1903
Petition: Dated July 20, 1903
Probated: August 10, 1903
Will dated February 8, 1883

1926 Deed of April 2, 1826, recorded in LEB 118, p.24

From: Martha Power
To: William Power
For: \$10.00 + etc.

1927 Deed of October 14, 1927, recorded in LEB 120, p.192-3.

From: William Power
To: Natalie Bayard Brown
For: \$10.00 + etc.

Date of Transfer: March 27, 1950
Decease of Natalie Bayard Brown by Will to Emmanuel Church.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers, etc.: Williams bought the property from Clark Burdick in 1845. Burdick was an active Newport builder in this period, and though the deed is silent on the existence of a house, it seems likely that Burdick built the house speculatively at this time and Williams became the first owner and occupant. Also, South Baptist was a new street in 1845.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Modest Greek Revival house.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, 28' 8" x 23'-3", (three-bays), one-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone
3. Wall construction; Frame. Clapboard, west front and north side (on the street). Shingles east and south sides. Corner boards and frieze board.

4. Structural system: Frame
 5. Porches, stoops: There is a concrete entrance stoop.
 6. Chimney: There is a brick center chimney
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Novel Greek Revival doorway framed in wood.
 - b. Windows: Six-light sash, double hung windows.
 7. Roof:
 - a. Gable roof, medium pitch, asphalt shingles.
 - b. Boxed eaves: Returned at corners.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor Plan: A small entrance vestibule is at the center on the west. Parlors are at the southwest and northwest corner. A small dining room is at the northeast, a kitchen at the east, and pantry at the southeast. The back door on the south leads to the stairway to the second floor. A large bedroom is on the north side, and a smaller bedroom at the southwest. Bathroom is at the southeast.
 2. Flooring: The wooden floors are random width, 3" x 8". Some later strip flooring is in the halls.
 3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are plaster. The walls are 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. The first floor ceiling is 7'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
 4. Doorways and doors: The four panel wooden doors have simple raised square profiles. Simple doorways are framed with unmolded boards. The top crosspiece projects slightly.
 5. Wooden mantels are in each parlor, built up in stepped and unframed parts with unmolded boards.
 6. Lighting: Electric light with center bulb.
 7. Heating: Radiators. Chimney serves only fireplace in southwest parlor. Mantel in northwest parlor appears original though never served a fireplace.
- D. Site: The house is placed on a small lot with the narrow north end to the street on the side walk line. The front door, on the west side of the house, opens to a narrow side yard.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Newport HABS Project — 1969. Sponsored in cooperation with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman. Under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and Osmund Overby (University of Missouri), Project Supervisor Jack E. Boucher, photographer.

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National Park Service